(JJP) godown of FCI in Calcutta Port Trust Area. The situation has improved since then.

In the aforesaid context, there seems to be no scope for fixing responsibility on any FCI officers.

Import and Export of Pepper and Cardamom

*178. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of income to Government from export cess on pepper in the last three years;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the cess is affecting adversely the export of pepper;

(c) if so, whether Government would take steps to abolish the export cess on pepper;

(d) the quantity of cardamom imported by India during 1995-96;

(e) the reasons for Government not stopping the import of cardamom as its price in India is falling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The revenue from cess on export of "Black Pepper" during the last three years is given below:—

Year	Revenue (Rs: Crores)
1993-94 (Actuals)	0.60
1994-95 (Revised Estimates)	0.60
1995-96 (Budget)	0.65

Source: Receipts-Budget Document 1995-96 of Ministry of Finance.

(b) and (c) Presently cess on export of spices including pepper is collected under the provisions of the following Acts:—

	RATE OF CESS
(i) The Agricultural Produce Cess Act, 1940	0.5% Ad valorem
(ii) The Spices Cess Act, 1986	2% Ad valorem
(a) Spices in raw form	1% Ad valorem
(b) Spices in the form of curry powder, spice oils & oloresins, other mixtures where spice content is predominant	

Cess on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine) under the provisions of the Spices Cess Act, 1986 was exempted upto 31.03.1996. Review of taxation burden on exports including cess is an ongoing process and, as and when considered necessary, exemptions on specified items are notified. Such exemptions from levy of cess are expected to make our agricultural exports more competitive.

(d) Quantities of cardamom imported during 1995-96 are as under:—

	QTY (MT)	Value (Rs. lakh)
(i) Small Cardamom	53.36	39.38
(ii) Large Cardamom	2552.25	1040.61
(iii) Others (Incl. Large Seeds)	20.92	8.28
Total	2626.53	1088.27

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

(e) Cardamom being a consumer item, is under the negative list of import and hence cannot be imported except against an import licence.

Child Labour in Bidi Sector

*179. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the steps proposed to regulate child labour in bidi sector;